

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 5344**

LCO No. 3508

**AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE
NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) In any prosecution
2 under section 53-247 of the general statutes, or in any proceeding
3 pursuant to section 22-329a of the general statutes or in the criminal
4 session of the Superior Court regarding the welfare or custody of an
5 animal, the court may order, upon its own initiative or upon request of
6 a party or counsel for a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to
7 represent the interests of the animal or the interests of justice. If a court
8 orders that an advocate be appointed to represent the interests of the
9 animal or the interests of justice, the court shall appoint such advocate
10 from a list provided to the court by the Commissioner of Agriculture
11 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. A decision by the court
12 denying a request to appoint a separate advocate to represent the
13 interests of an animal or the interests of justice shall not be subject to
14 appeal.

15 (b) The advocate shall: (1) Monitor the case; (2) consult any
16 individual with information that could aid the judge or fact finder and
17 review records relating to the condition of the animal and the
18 defendant's actions, including, but not limited to, records from animal
19 control officers, veterinarians and police officers; (3) attend hearings;

20 and (4) present information or recommendations to the court pertinent
21 to determinations that relate to the interests of the animal or the
22 interests of justice, provided such information and recommendations
23 shall be based solely upon the duties undertaken pursuant to this
24 subsection.

25 (c) The Department of Agriculture shall maintain a list of attorneys
26 with knowledge of animal issues and the legal system and a list of law
27 schools that have students, or anticipate having students, with an
28 interest in animal issues and the legal system. Such attorneys and law
29 students shall be eligible to serve on a voluntary basis as advocates
30 under this section. The provisions of sections 3-14 to 3-21, inclusive, of
31 the Connecticut Practice Book shall govern a law student's
32 participation as an advocate under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	New section
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